

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

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1. (Previously presented) A method for the continuous cooking of wood raw material for the production of cellulose pulp, comprising:

10 feeding a wood raw material and a cooking fluid to a top of a continuous digester;

establishing a cooking temperature of 130-170° in the digester while the wood raw material experiencing a retention time of at least 90 minutes at the cooking temperature;

15 the wood raw material sinking continuously through the digester from the top down to a bottom of the digester in order to finally expelling the wood raw material from the bottom of the digester;

arranging a first withdrawal position in the digester for the cooking fluid and arranging a second withdrawal position in the digester for the cooking fluid, the second withdrawal position being above the first withdrawal position;

20 withdrawing cooking Fluid at the first and second withdrawal positions, the wood raw material having experienced a first retention time in the digester at the first withdrawal position and a second retention time in the digester at the second withdrawal position, the first retention time being at least 10 minutes different from the second retention time;

25 establishing a zone of a countercurrent or a concurrent flow in the digester between the first and second withdrawal positions;

30 providing an openable shunt line extending between the first withdrawal position and the second withdrawal position, the shunt line being in a closed position;

a differential pressure ( $\Delta P$ ) between the second withdrawal position and the first withdrawal position falling below a first predetermined threshold value or rising above a second predetermined threshold value; and

5 opening the shunt line extending between the first and second withdrawal positions.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first withdrawal position is constituted by a first withdrawal strainer that is located at the bottom of the digester in a wall section of the digester, and wherein the second withdrawal position is constituted by a second withdrawal strainer that is located above the first withdrawal strainer at a sufficient distance to ensure that the wood raw material at the second withdrawal strainer has had the first retention time that is at least 10 minutes, shorter in the digester compared to the first retention time of the wood raw material at the first withdrawal strainer and where a physical distance between the first and second withdrawal strainers is at least 2 meters, and wherein the digester has a third withdrawal position above the second withdrawal position so that cooking fluid at the third withdrawal position is withdrawn after the wood raw material has had a retention time in the digester that is shorter and differs relative to the second withdrawal position by at least 10 minutes, and wherein a zone of concurrent flow or countercurrent flow is established in the digester between the second and the third withdrawal positions, establishing a zone of a concurrent flow in the digester between second withdrawal position and the third withdrawal position;  
30 providing an openable shunt line extending between the second withdrawal position and the third withdrawal position, the shunt line being in a closed position;

a differential pressure ( $\Delta P$ ) between the third withdrawal position and the second withdrawal position rising above a third predetermined threshold value; and opening the shunt line extending between the second and third withdrawal positions.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein the digester has a fourth withdrawal position so that cooking fluid at a fourth withdrawal position is withdrawn after the wood raw material has had a retention time in the digester that differs relative to that at the third withdrawal position by at least 10 minutes, and wherein a zone of countercurrent flow of concurrent flow is established in the digester between the third and the fourth withdrawal positions, a differential pressure ( $\Delta P$ ) between the third and the fourth withdrawal positions is determined.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the digester has a fifth withdrawal position so that cooking fluid at this fifth withdrawal position is withdrawn after the wood raw material has had a retention time in the digester that differs relative to that at the fourth withdrawal position by at least 10 minutes, and where a cooking zone of countercurrent flow or concurrent flow is established in the digester between the fourth and fifth withdrawal positions, a differential pressure between the fourth and the fifth withdrawal positions is determined.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first connection opens such that a flow in the first connection between the first and second withdrawal positions becomes parallel to a flow of cooking fluid

established in the digester through a column of chips between the first and second withdrawal strainers.

5 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein washing fluid is added at the bottom of the digester through a pressurized washing fluid line, a differential pressure between the washing fluid line and the first withdrawal position is determined.

10 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein wood raw material and cooking fluid are added at the top of the digester during the withdrawal of cooking fluid at the top of the digester in a top strainer in direct connection with the top of the digester, and wherein the top strainer  
15 withdraws cooking fluid from the wood raw material before the wood raw material has experienced any significant retention time in the digester, the cooking fluid is returned to the input system of the digester through a return line,  
a differential pressure is determined between the return line  
20 and a withdrawal position that is arranged at the top of the digester and below the top strainer.

25 8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein differential pressures between all withdrawal positions from the bottom of the digester up to an uppermost withdrawal position at which cooking fluid is withdrawn in order to be led away to a recovery process, are determined.

30 9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein differential pressures between all withdrawal positions in the digester at which cooking fluid is withdrawn are determined.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein cooking fluid is conditioned in an external treatment before being returned to the digester.

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